

March 16, 1973

the state up until last year, in indifference to a legislator who is here, we made an amendment to it, so that it might be possible to pacify the one person, who made objection to it, and in so doing in passing this, then this year when the funding came, the Governor put it in his budget and the Governor approved the project and the school, but they put the funding into the cash fund. I went over to the department of administrative services to see why, and they said they had an interpretation of the statute that was passed, that it should be cash fund instead of general fund. I checked with the department of education and they disagreed with this interpretation, so I couldn't get any interpretation that was agreeable between the two of them, so the decision was made to put this statute back exactly like it was before that we tried to please this one person in this legislature who had objection to the school. Now all we are doing here, is we are putting it back the way it was prior to the change in LB 1000, and we are putting it back as a state school just exactly as it always has been a state school, and the total cost to the state of Nebraska, is about eighty thousand dollars, there is about ten thousand dollars in Federal funds, all we are attempting to do here is to put into the general fund that which is now in the cash fund, and it is necessary to change this law so that this can be done.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Whitney, then Senator Nore.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the legislature, in the past, my county if it sends a mental retarded boy or girl to the Cozad School has to pay four hundred dollars. In the past my school district has to pay four hundred dollars if it sends a boy or girl to the Cozad School, what Senator Duis wants to do is to not require my county to pay four hundred dollars nor the school district to pay four hundred dollars, but it shall be free, for them to go there, to the Cozad School. Now we have an educational service unit in my county, so when a young person is mentally retarded, here is what will happen. A school board members or county commissioner will say why don't you send your boy or girl down to Cozad rather than to our own school, our educational service unit, because it won't cost the school anything, it won't cost the county anything, and this is what is intended in this bill, is that they provide a competitive situation here, where instead of having about thirty to thirty four students here, they will have sixty students there, taking them away from a present educational service units. Now I do not feel that my educational service unit should be placed in that competitive, non-competitive situation, I feel that my county should pay something to the support of the mental retarded, and our school district should pay something, and I do not feel that we should have a school which is in competition with the educational service units. Now in order to increase the numbers therefore at Cozad, it's, they are asking for a new building, five hundred thousand dollars building, and the state will pay the whole works. Now in my judgement, we shouldn't operate on this basis, and I want to say that I have visited the Cozad Mental Retarded School. I have visited a large number of mentally retarded educational service units, mentally retarded schools in the state. I was Chairman of the sub committee of the appropriations committee which had as it's purpose that of going out and making a study of the whole mentally retarded program in the state of Nebraska. Senator Nore was on that committee, Senator Stahmer was on that committee, Senator Fred Carstens was on that committee, and I was on that committee, and we constantly received criticisms of the way our program was initiated. The people who were working in the mental retarded schools, in Sidney and other places, I'm not saying definitely the people there in that particular school made